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The Daily TITAN

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THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 8, 2001

Reporting in times of crisis, war

■ **DISCUSSION:** The media battles with the government's selective disclosure of information

By KIMBERLY PIERCEALL
Daily Titan Staff Writer

"The government lies," said Will Swaim, the editor from OC Weekly.

Speaking to a crowd composed of mainly political science students, Swaim said that everybody lies and the public can't afford to be a casual reader.

"I don't believe 50 percent of what they (government officials) say, and I'm thoroughly suspicious of the other half," said Mike Dravo, a senior political science major.

Senior Anthony Shaghoia, also a political science major, said as students studying government, they "thoroughly analyze everything" pertaining to it.

But Dravo said it's potentially dangerous to tell the public that at this time, and it was a tough statement to end the discussion presented by the Political Science and Criminal Justice Department.

Swaim, Orange County Register reporter Joe Ames, and Los Angeles Times reporter Jean Pasco, spent an hour yesterday discussing the media's coverage since Sept. 11 as a part of Political Administration and Justice Days.

The panel touched on the tragedy's effect on news, anthrax scares and government censorship.

However, Swaim said the government isn't telling the press enough.

Following public criticism of Gov. Gray Davis' warning to Californians of possible attacks aimed at bridges, three members of the Orange County press rallied behind his decision.

"Disclosure is better than nondisclosure," Ames said.

"The news abhors a vacuum," Ames said, the same cycle of news (i.e. another bombing, another anthrax case etc).

"We hate that, and the people that manipulate us know that," he said.

But Ames said times like these bring out the best in the journalism profession.

"When things matter, the press gets better."

Gary Condit and the energy crisis fought for front-page status before Sept. 11. Since then, the front page, back page and every page in between belongs to the war on terrorism.

"This story has dominated everything," Pasco said.

The L.A. Times/Orange County newsroom is gutted, now that one third of reporters have been sent away to cover the events, she said.

Ames predicted a partnership between media powerhouses like CNN, the New York Times and Chicago Tribune to save money and create combined foreign bureaus.

All news networks including CNN have refused to broadcast bin Laden's speech, and Swain said it was detrimental.

Since a majority of Americans ferociously hate Bin Laden, they won't give much credence to what he says in his speeches, Swaim said.

He added, "for us to close our ears to it is very dangerous."

MEDIA/3



A team of mechanical engineering students sit at a table next to last year's Baja Dune Buggy. The team discusses the design of their own dune buggy which they will soon build and test before they enter it into the Mini Baja Collegiate Contest in April.

DANNY SERPA/
Daily Titan

■ **PROJECT:** The event will take place between different universities in Utah in April 2002

By DANNY SERPA
Daily Titan Staff Writer

A group of mechanical engineering students are grinding their gears in the classroom in order to prepare themselves for the Annual Mini Baja Collegiate Design Contest, which will be held in April in Logan, Utah.

The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) hosts the event that features more than one hundred universities.

Cal State Fullerton is represented by a team of senior engineers who are part of a two-semester design course held in the Engineering Department.

The team is required to design, build and test a single seat dune buggy that is comparable with what engineers are designing in the real world. Then, contestants are responsible for presenting a physical and oral presentation explaining details of efficiency and cost analysis.

"This is the real deal," said Colleen Keller, a mechanical engineer major who is part of the six-person team. "This is actually a test of our knowledge and hands on experience."

Briggs and Stratton, a well-known

manufacturer of engines and power tools, donates a 10-horsepower engine to all teams entered so that it is fair. The rest of the material costs are donated from companies who sponsor the team or research grants awarded to them.

The students learn the design process in their first semester, which entails project planning, design alternatives, design analysis and math modeling. From there, they begin to virtually build the buggy on the computer while making sure the design is safe for the competition and that it follows the guidelines set by the SAE.

Beginning in their second semester, the team is responsible for designing and building the buggy's chassis, suspension, steering, driveline, braking system and transmission. After they have finished building it, they test it and present it in the contest.

"This emulates very closely what would be expected of an engineer practicing in the field," said Tim Lancey, a mechanical engineer professor who teaches the course and advises the team.

Lancey said that the students are to design a dune buggy like it's a prototype of a new product and that it should be marketable, safe and competitive to the other schools.

"Their working as a team in order to design an off-road vehicle and make certain, rather ridged specifications the SAE requires, is met," said Lancey. "It includes roll cage design, driveline, steering, brake and safety features."



DANNY SERPA/Daily Titan

The team, comprised of seniors, discusses the dimensions of the body's frame-

Last year, the university placed third in the engineering sales presentation part of the event, a 47th overall. Team member Reza Elahi said he likes his team's chances this year.

"Hopefully, we will fit in the top five," Elahi said.

Members of the team are excited about the idea of using aluminum for the frame-work of the buggy, but are unsure until analysis testing proves it can be done.

"It's power to weight ratio," said Omid Mohseni, a senior who is on the team.

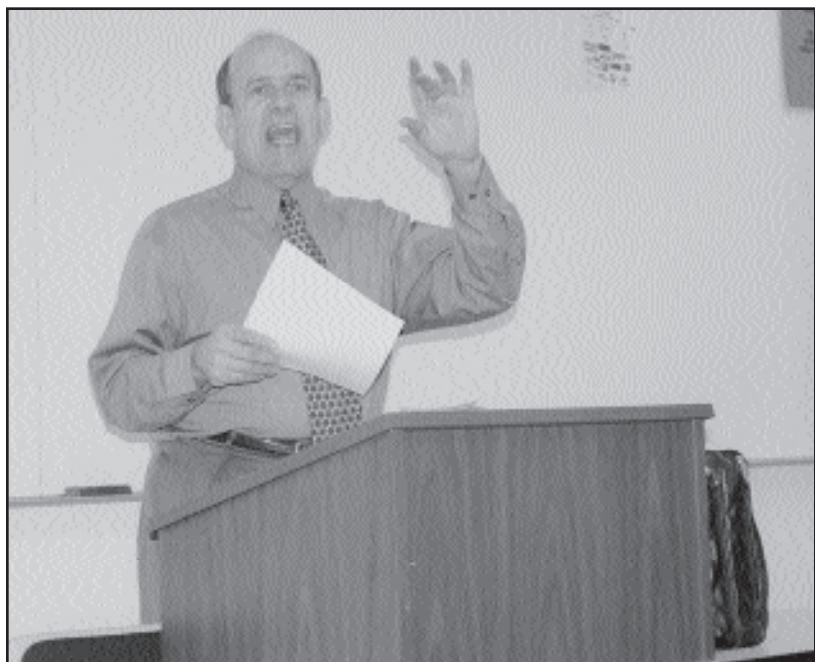
"Our goal is to ensure the creation of the lightest possible dune buggy," he said. "Using aluminum to save the weight helps improve the frame drastically. That's what we want to focus on."

Gracie Millard is the first female to be named project manager leader. She said that before this semester her knowledge of cars was meek, but the baja project drew her attention the most.

"It's one of the hardest senior design

BUGGY/3

Political advertising course examines



MICHELLE LARA/Daily Titan

David Cooper, professor of Communications, will be teaching Comm 415T, a new political science/advertising course.

■ **CAMPUS:** Communications 415T is temporary, and has yet to prove if it will stay in the curriculum

By MICHELLE LARA
Daily Titan Staff Writer

A new course, Communications 415T, Political Advertising, will give students a new way to look at how advertising works in the political arena.

This class is designed to examine advertising that takes place in political campaigns and have students follow the advertisements that candidates use in the primary elections of spring 2002.

David Cooper, professor of the Department of Communications, will use his 20 years of experience in the political and media business to combine these concepts and show students the

importance that advertisements have in influencing votes.

"Political advertising has been evolving in the last 50 years," said Cooper, a former U.S. Senate staff member. "The first presidential campaign [that] they used television was Dwight Eisenhower and they used very simple kinds of advertising messages. - They have become very sophisticated since that period of time. -While they were playing a small role then, they play a major role now."

The course is a temporary class that will only be offered next spring. -One reason for this is that Cooper wanted to teach the class while an election cycle was taking place. -The university must deem it successful enough to become a permanent course.

Because the class is being offered for the first time ever, not many students or faculty know about it.

Four out of five political science professors who were asked about the course had not yet heard about it.

CLASS/3

Societies influenced by choices

■ **COURSE:** 'Food for thought' takes a new context when studying the history of cuisine

By JAMIE AYALA
Special to the Titan

What does food have to do with magic, crime, nationalism, traditions and religious beliefs?

The basic necessity is the recently discovered tool for studying those aspects.

"Food is a factor that can be studied across time and provides a new perspective in trying to make sense of societies from past to modern times," said Touraj Daryaei, a professor of history.

The once historical curiosity has become a hot topic for academic historians within the last four years. This wave of interest in looking at food and drink academically has caused many universities including Cal State Fullerton to start offering

courses in the subject.

Daryaei will be instructing an upper division elective course on the topic next semester. He first taught history 490 or 491 a couple of years ago after proposing it to his peers, because he was interested in not just looking at what historical cultures ate, but why that cuisine was important for that society.

Roshanna Sylvester is a history professor and the current curriculum chair of the history department.

"The department wants to go beyond the idea that history is just about battles and politics and there was no question that this [history of food] was not a legitimate topic of study," Sylvester said.

This interdisciplinary course

FOOD/3

two

A GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING

BRIEFS

Fire drill sets off in College Park Building

Students and staff evacuated the College Park Building Wednesday when a fire drill went off at approximately 10:07 a.m.

As the ringing alarm notified people to leave the building, many students were apprehensive about leaving because they thought the alarm was a prank.

"I was sitting in the Nutwood Café when I saw everybody rush outside," said Stacey Bayan, a psychology major.

"I plan on staying close to the building because I don't really think that there is a fire. Somebody probably just pulled the alarm," she added.

Corporal John Bedell, the officer at the scene explained that the alarm had been triggered by something on the seventh floor.

"Supposedly somebody was microwaving some food and it caused the fire alarm to go off," Bedell said. "We received a call and responded, but no fire crews were needed so they were not called out."

—Heather Baer

Deadline approaches for membership

The deadline for joining the Golden Key International Honour Society is approaching. It is in the final stages of its new member induction.

For those who are juniors, seniors or graduate students and have a cumulative great point average of 3.4 or above, they are eligible to join the club.

Many scholarships are available through the organization. Information about joining is available at the booths in front of University Hall Nov. 13 to Nov. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Or for application information, contact the chapter adviser at jlorge@fullerton.edu.

Brea Curtis Theatre presents "Sounds Better With Bells"

The Curtis Theatre's Kids's Culture Club Series presents "Sounds Better With Bells," Sunday Nov. 18.

Performances are 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The nationally acclaimed musical group , Campanile, takes the stage with fast-paced, powerful and playful tunes.

The performance is part of the Kids' Culture Club series that offers educational, interactive, inspirational and informal productions.

Tickets are \$6, and may be purchased online at www.curtis-theatre.org.

Tickets may also be bought by phone, mail, fax or in person.

Discount rates are available for groups of 15 or more. There is a savings by purchasing the entire series for \$30.

Parking is free. The Curtis Theatre is located at the Brea Civic and Cultural Center, at 1 Civic Center Circle.

Box office hours are Wednesday through Friday , from noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and an hour prior to performance.

For tickets or information, call (714) 990-7722.

Adopt-a-Family/Senior for the Holidays

The City of Santa Ana is preparing for its annual "Adopt a Family or Senior" for the holidays. Businesses, families and individuals are being sought. Call (714) 647-6557 for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Community---

Save Ferris will be performing at the House of Blues in Anaheim on Nov. 17. The ska concert will start at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$17.50. For more information, call (714) 778-2583.-

Britney Spears will perform at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim on Nov. 20. Tickets range in price from \$40 to \$75. For more information, call (714) 704-2700 or Ticketmaster at (714) 740-2000.-

The "14th annual Fullerton Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony" will be held on Nov. 12. The parade starts at 10:25 a.m. in the Downtown Plaza. For more information, call (714) 738-6317.-

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center Foundation is presenting a Holiday Americana Home Tour, Floral Demonstrations, Boutique & Luncheon on Dec. 1. The events will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Suggested donation of \$25 per person is recommended. Funds will benefit the Muckenthaler Cultural Center Foundation. For more information, call (714) 738-6595.-

The Family Values Tour will be at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim on Nov. 10. Bands featured include Linkin Park, Staind and Stone Temple Pilots. Tickets are \$42.50. For more

information, call (714) 704-2400.--

On Nov. 8 "Fight Night at the Pond" will start at 7:30 p.m. U.S. Olympian Jose Navarro will be fighting at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim. Tickets range from \$15 to \$110. For more information, call (714) 740-2000.--

The Relationship Building Network is hosting their BUSINESS Expo/Trade Show on Dec. 4 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Newport Fish Company and there is a \$10 admission charge. There will be appetizers, entertainment and prizes.--

A Nutcracker Boutique will be held at the Brea Community Center on Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit Brea Community Center Youth, teen and family programs. --

The City of Brea and the National Watercolor Society are presenting the 81st annual "National Watercolor Juried Exhibition" through Dec. 9. The exhibit will feature more than 100 watercolor paintings from artists around the world. For more information, call (714) 990-7730.--

Brea's Curtis Theatre presents "Cecil B. Demille Presents" and "Campanile" Nov. 16-18. Tickets are \$27. For more information, call (714) 990-7722.--

"Devices of Wonder: From the World in a Box to Images on a Screen" is an exhibit at the Getty Center in Los Angeles Nov. 13 through Feb. 3, 2002. The displays feature devices that enhance visual perception including mirrors, dioramas and microscopes. For more information, call (310) 440-7722.--

A live music/comedy entitled "Ha Ha That Rocks" will be playing at The Roxy in Los Angeles on Nov. 13. Special guests including the Sklar Brothers, Trilambs and Metal Shop will be featured during the showcase. For more information, call (310) 276-2222.--

Campus-

Camp Titan is having a Holiday Toy Drive from Nov. 15 through Dec. 14. Bring an unwrapped toy to the Titan Student Union Information and Services desk to help support underprivileged children.-

A Teacher job fair will be held Nov. 20 from 12: 30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Titan Student Union Pavilions. For more information, visit www.fullerton.edu/career.-

The Ceramics Showcase 2001 is on display in the Grand Central Rental and Sales Gallery through Nov. 25. This is the third annual event of its kind. The exhibit features works by Southern California artists like Lucy Chamberlain, Don Fitzgerald and Susan Martin.

For more information, call (714) 567-7233.-

The "Southern California Primate Research Forum" will be held on Nov. 10, from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. in McCarthy Hall room 1221. The Primatology Student's Association is sponsoring the event. Those interested RSVP by e-mailing dmusick@lycos.com. For more information, call (714) 577-0995.-

On Nov. 10, there will be a Cricket match against USC from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at USC. It will be held at the Catherine B. Locker Track and Field. For more information, call Karun Singh (714) 337-0727.--

Self-defense classes for women only will be offered Nov. 9 and 16 in the Physical Education Building's Fencing Room. The "Rape Aggression Defense" is a consecutive group of classes that teach women to be prepared if ever faced with an attacker. For more information, call (714) 278-5533.--

The Missy Hasin Trio will perform Nov. 13 at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana. Tickets are \$10. Missy Hasin is a cellist who plays jazz, hip-hop and rock. For more information, call (714) 567-7234.--

Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," a romantic comedy about the life of Lord Byron, will be performed through Dec. 9. Tickets may be purchased in advance.

Dr.
Anderson
2 x 3

Planned
Parenthood
2 x 3

Xyborg
2 x 4

Council
Travel
2 x 4

Gamers - X
4 x 4

The Daily TITAN

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COURTESY OF JIM VOLZ

Micah Dahlberg (left) as Scapin, and Alicia Sherman as Nerine perform in ‘Scapin.’

No escape from ‘Scapin’

■REVIEW: The all-student cast spent seven weeks preparing for the impromptu inspired comedy

By ELANA PRUITT
Daily Titan Copy Editor

Escaping the usual scripted play, actors explored the art of comedy in “Scapin” last Sunday at Cal State Fullerton’s Arena Theatre.

The wildly upbeat play, written by Bill Irwin and Mark O’Donnell, immediately opened with kooky, jester-like dances from the all-student cast. As the “Comedia D’ell Arte”—a theatrical style of impromptu — was popular in Italy around the 14th and 15th centuries, the presentation of the play was a successful tribute to its origin. Audience members went from confusion to amusement as the play progressed and interactive humor kept everybody in the mood for entertainment.

“This is the first time this genre has been performed in the last decade,” said Jim Volz, professor of the Theatre and Dance Department. “It took seven weeks to prepare for this show, which is typical for a comedy like this.”

Volz compared the type of comedy to the likes of Ellen Degeneres and Jerry Seinfeld, pointing out that these artists started their career with improv.

Directed by CSUF graduate student Todd Kulczyk, the play opens so busily that by the end of the first act, two audience members were questioning others about who was who and what was what? But as the second act continued with a whirlwind of theatricality and spontaneity, the story line became clear and question marked faces turned into delighted smiles.

Scapin, pronounced “Scuh-pan,” is the innocently, deceitful servant who embodied the story. He plays cupid with two men desperately longing for their beloved women, as well as the liaison between the sons and their angry fathers. Scapin, played by Micah Dahlberg, lies like a pro and dances like a master of song. With exaggerated face painting, zany, brightly-colored pants and matching hat, Dahlberg plays the role of a joker and jester and well, a comedian.

Sylvestre, played by John Wilds, assists Scapin in his many mischievous schemes as his companion. Wilds continuously fed the audience with unexpected dance grooves and one-liners. The chemistry between Dahlberg and John Wilds is felt through their friendly encouragement

and playoffs of one another.

“The actors just play with how the audience responds,” Volz said. “Scapin is a scripted production, but ad libs are added to the improvisation.”

The theater housed an active, as well as interactive, performance Sunday afternoon. Highlights of “Scapin” included a silly, kissing ritual between two lovers — Octave (Frank Astran III) and Hyacinth (Dena Hall), Sylvestre’s call to drama and realization that he was born to act instead of being a servant and a hilarious chase scene at the end.

The musical conductor/butler named George (Amy Drinkwater) funkned up the play with kinky melodies that matched the scenes, and dramatically did as was told by boss Scapin. Pulling worded signs reading “duh” — hung from opposite sides of the theater, poked fun into her role of servitude and brought laughter from the audience.

“It has been a real challenge,” Volz admitted. “Todd took on an exciting adventure to delve into this kind of theater.”

Todd Kulczyk has previously directed “Waiting for Lefty,” “Hello Bertha,” “What I Meant Was” and “The Altruists” at CSUF.

“Scapin” will continue its performance in the Arena Theatre through Nov. 11.

Volunteers needed to change children’s

■ORGANIZATION: Camp Titan lets “kids be kids” for a week, offering them a stable schedule

By HEATHER BAER
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Wanted: Outgoing students who enjoy dedicating their time working with children.

Applicants must be in good standing with the university, have at least a 2.0 grade point average and must be very enthusiastic

Camp Titan is currently looking for volunteers to act as counselors and spend time with underprivileged children.

The deadline for applications is Saturday, Nov. 17.

“Pretty much we are looking for people who are goofy, who can act like kids and love to be around kids,” said Amy Prospero, co-director of camper management and training. “Camp Titan offers kids the chance to play with other children their age

and to participate in many activities which they may not have the chance to participate in otherwise.”

Prospero explained that Camp Titan is the philanthropic part of the Associated Students (AS) and is funded not only by AS, but by a Los Angeles Times grant as well.

The Camp Titan program takes 150 underprivileged children, from Orange County, to a YMCA campsite in the San Bernardino Mountains for one week. There, the children play games, swim and enjoy nature.

“The kids get to eat three meals per day and for one week have a consistent schedule,” Prospero said. “Most of these kids come from pretty bad situations and this program gives them a break from their lives. Here they can play and act like the kids they are.”

Jen McCully, a staff member, has been with the Camp Titan program for the past three years and says the program is not only beneficial to the children, but to the university as well.

“The program is great, because it gives these kids a break, where they don’t have to deal with the pressures of home,” McCully said. “However,

it is also beneficial to the campus because it shows how involved Cal State Fullerton is with the community.”

Prospero said that the applicants are supposed to bring their application to the Titan Student Union Room 269 to have interviews that same day.

“The program provides training for the counselors,” Prospero said. “We take them up for one weekend in April for training and then they return to the campsite with the kids in June.”

This year, Camp Titan runs from June 15-22.

McCully said that after her years of experience with the program, she still looks forward to spending time with the kids.

“One of my favorite memories is when I was the counselor for the oldest age group of girl. They came back the following years as counselors-in-training and were so happy to see me,” McCully said. “This is the type of job where you have to love what you do, we don’t get paid for our time. We are volunteers. I have loved each year. I have participated in it and look forward to this upcoming

BUGGY

■from page 1

projects in the engineering department,” she said.

“I knew I wanted to be a part of it when all of us talked about it last year.”

Besides the rigorous time and energy put into the Mini Baja Project, students are also required to take written mid-terms on subjects like Aspects of Design Methodology and Professional ethics and practice.

“There is full reporting here, and at the competition site,” Lancey said.

He added that the workload is not easy. Funding for the project is also

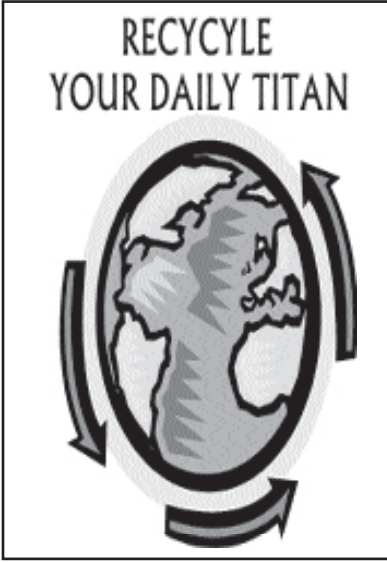
difficult.

The team seeks funding support from research grants and companies who will sponsor them. So far, analysis software has been donated, but the team still needs much more funding.

The team, which also include Jessie Smith and Daniel Lee, look at completing the project as a testimony of their hard work and dedication to the class.

Best of all, when they start the engine that day, they can look at the completed dune buggy and know that as a group of mechanical engineering students, school success comes in may different forms.

“This class teaches you how to work as a team and get things done,”



Read the Daily Titan online!!!
<http://dailytitan.fullerton.edu>

MEDIA

■from page 1

Newsrooms haven’t closed their eyes to the sight of anthrax scares. While mailroom employees at the Register and L.A. Times wear rubber gloves and Ames receives personal letters already opened, inspected and stamped – Pasco said anthrax attacks directed at staff writers probably isn’t a priority. Still, the L.A. Times/Orange County edition building was evacuated and quarantined within 24 hours after the attacks, when someone opened a letter filled with flour.

The Titan Theater audience laughed when Swain said, “I’m more concerned about O.C. Republicans than anthrax

being delivered to me.”

Swain said the journalist’s job is a little more involved now. Reporters must “be really patient, really investigate, and despite our best efforts – not screw-up,” he said.

Dravo said he’s noticed the media acting more cautious. “I think they’re treading lightly...getting sources correct, facts correct,” he said.

Shaghoia and Dravo said they would like to see more from the media, such as a good accurate account of how many civilians in Afghanistan have perished and information on other countries assisting in the war on terrorism.

But with limited amount of writers and space constraints in a newspaper, not everything can be covered.

“Newspapers can’t print every-

FOOD

■from page 1

evaluates how food affects societies in order to understand them better. Students delve into discussions ranging from why fasting and feasting are significant to the truth, and the origin of food as an aphrodisiac. Daryae teaches the class how to use food as a tool of research to understand these elements of societies and then allows students to apply it to their areas of interests (majors). For instance, he said that one of his former students was interested in art and evaluated The Last Supper by comparing what was eaten and where it was placed on the table in depictions from various time periods.

Sylvester said this kind of history is not what students are used to being exposed to. This sub-discipline provides broader aspects of human experiences, she said.

This type of curriculum is a growing and accepted trend.

Polina Gershfeld, 18, said she was interested in courses that piqued her interest in non-conventional ways.

“As long as it is not a class about nutrition, it sounds like a fun way to learn something new,” said the business management major.

Instead of giving health advice, Daryae said he will present films like “Tortilla Soup” for discussions on food and family, in addition to providing a few food tastes.

CLASS

■from page 1

“A brochure is going around to tell students and professors more about the course,” Cooper said. “But we really are at the mercy at the departments and professors that want to support it.”

Communication 415T can be taken as an elective for students outside of the communication department even though it is a core class for advertising students.

“I think this class could be a benefit to political science students,” said Katie Morey, a junior and political

science major. “It could possibly give me another option in what I want to do with my career.”

The course will cover the historical-political perspective of past elections, making it a good class for those students interested in politics, business, history and graphic design, Cooper said.

“Political advertising is a highly specialized field,” Cooper said. “There are many people playing many different roles. -People have to have a good grounding in the political process, as well as understanding the principles of advertising. - With this course I hope to converse these things together.”

Goat
Hill
Tavern
1 x 6

AA Copy
2 x 2

Contractors
Liscense
Exam
2 x 8

Legacy Home
Loans
4 x 4

‘How to Succeed in Business’ a success; without really trying

BY TRINITY POWELLS
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Every once and a while there is a name that spells success. Donald Trump, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller—they all had the names. So when J. Pierpont Finch decided to make it in business, success was all in how he decided to spell it; F-I-N-C-H.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway play, “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” already had a name for itself when James R. Taulli directed the Cal State Fullerton cast at the Little Theatre on Oct. 27.

Considering that Matthew Broderick played the lead on Broadway in 1995 at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York, the CSUF Department of Theatre and Dance had a considerable reputation to uphold.

But with an excellent supporting

cast and a performance that held back nothing from the audience, the production succeeded almost as effortlessly as Ponty’s rise to success.

The tale is about Finch, a young window washer that harbors loftier dreams of success in the business world.

With an unmistakably devilish smile and the advice he religiously follows from a small book, Ponty begins to climb the rungs of the corporate ladder at the World Wide Wickets Company.

Along his steady rise to corporate bliss, Finch encounters a hunger for his affection that rivals his own ambitions for success. He finds it in Rosemary Pilkington, whose motives borderline that of a gold digger.

With this added weight of a possible love interest and the conniving antics of Bud Frump, the spoiled and overly ambitious nephew of J.B. Biggley, the head of World Wide Wickets, Ponty’s climb to the top is hysterical.

Finch (Brian Dawson) is the charming boy-next-door type that any mother would want their daughter to meet, but would probably want him for themselves. Dawson’s ability to be both naïve and ingenious at once is both remarkable and creative.

Rosemary (Megan Grumbel), an overly forward secretary, was as lovely and sweet as Marsha Brady, but possessed a confidence that couldn’t be ignored; especially by Finch.

Bud Frump (Daniel James Canaday), an irritating momma’s boy who got his job because he was the bosses nephew, was exciting to watch as he flailed about the stage reminiscent of Jerry Lewis in his prime.

Smitty (Vandy Scoates) was lovable and spirited as Rosemary’s friend and confidante, while Hedy Larue (Brooke Aston), Biggley’s newest hire and mistress, possessed a spirit and presence all her own that caused more than just Finch’s career to rise.

J.B. Biggley (CSUF alumnus Kevin Beaty) is an eccentric and careless executive that golfs, cheats on his wife and knits to calm his nerves, but not necessarily in that order. Beaty is lively and humorous yet subtle and entertaining.

The supporting cast is phenomenal and their choreography is exciting in the musical number “Coffee Break.” And there is a surprising treat in the performance of Miss Jones (Valerie Casey), the secretary of J.B. Biggley, whose remarkable voice, alone, was worth admission.

With a witty script and a fantastic musical score that has succeeded repeatedly, the cast did not have to try hard to accomplish a brilliant performance—but they did. Maybe they read a book on how to succeed in the theatre. If they were anything like Finch, they knew it was all in how you spell success—C-S-U-F.



COURTESY OF CSUF THEATRE ARTS
Brian Dawson (left), with Vandy Scoates and Megan Grubel (right).

California Institute of the Arts goes abnormal



EMILY DORMAN/Daily Titan
Spooky Pie keyboardist, Phyllis Teen performs in Hollywood.

■HOLIDAY: Halloween in the Hollywood Hills takes on a life of its own at this year’s event

RITA FREEMAN
Daily Titan Asst. News Editor

Hidden in the outskirts of North Hollywood, surrounded by auto mechanic shops and torn up streets lies a different dimension.

As one escapes into a world of oddities, encircled by a disturbing coffin of a dead clown, a shrine to a dead fairy, a fossilized arm of a man and of a merman, a two-headed baby and naked people dancing on video screens, sexual energy exudes through the night.

And this was just the venue where five bands, \$3 Puta, Spooky Pie,

Kittenfreaky, Loudboy and Sex with Lurch celebrated a post-Halloween and Day of the Dead rock ‘n’ roll event.

At the California Institute of Abnormal Arts, about 200 people toured the museum and listened to an eclectic array of music from gothic/glam/surf punk to kooky-indie-nerd girls.

Spooky Pie oozed with Los Angeles as it performed. With a mixture of dark psychedelic songs and simple repetitive lyrics, the group drew in the audience.

Ellen Rocamora, 20, of Glendale said CIA was the perfect venue to host the event.

“You step out of the real world and step in here — it’s a different time, a different world,” she said.

“You see Lurch walk by. It’s like Halloween is extended a little bit longer.”

One of the main highlights was

Loudboy, as Barnes, the Master of Ceremonies and lead singer, energized the audience with a glam punk—style rock ‘n’ roll. Wearing light—up devil horns and a cape, the spotlight shined in his eyes and they pierced straight into the audience.

Screams followed while he gyrated his hips.

Kittenfreaky added a blend of fun to the show, with songs like “Last Supper at Denny’s” and “Stupid Girl.” The women did not play that many instruments, except a bass, a keyboard and a baby saxophone.

Lead singer and lyricist, Cindy Pop, said when they first started out as an art band, they were not musically inclined. They would make noises on the keyboard and hoped it would make a song.

At the end of the night, the gender bender band, “Sex With Lurch” performed.

At the beginning of the perfor-

mance, the “Lurchettes,” started dancing while a blonde stripped off her cloak and wore a babyhead bra top. Lurch stood hidden in the background and only sometimes dancing with his large feather duster.

The lead singer and guitarist, wearing leopard thigh highs and shiny aquamarine boots, shook his hips playing songs like “Glitter Bitch and “Space Kitty.”

As they performed, a masked clown carried a sign protesting urine and asked the audience to sign a petition boycotting it.

Though it appeared to distract the audience, the clown added to the oddities of the night.

One audience member who waited anxiously to see the band the entire night, danced during each of its five songs and its encore.

“They were more subdued than I thought they would be,” said Bonnie Kramer, 42 of Los Angeles. “But it

Get lost on ‘Mulholland Drive’

BY BRANDON PARRIS
Special to the Titan

I was there when the homeless demon released a pair of inch high, old folks out of his magic paper sack.

I saw the string-out lip syncing lounge singer belt out a Spanish rendition of Roy Orbison’s “Crying.”

David Lynch, the master of confusing symbolism uses his new film, “Mulholland Drive” to bring together an amnesia—stricken lesbian actress, a Los Angeles cowboy, a wheelchair stricken Hollywood mob boss and Billy Ray Cyrus as an adulterating gardener.

These images all appear to have nothing in common. This is the cruel paradox that is Lynch’s new masterpiece. The

movie abounds with solid acting, strong characters and great cinematography, yet makes no sense when put together.

Theatergoers booed, hissed and fled like postal workers in an anthrax scare as the film wore on. But it is not a bad film.

“Mulholland Drive” is a masterpiece that captured top directing honors at Cannes, yet agitates movie audiences.

“Mulholland Drive” is the tale of an actress with amnesia trying to piece her life together, starting with the thousands in cash she finds in her purse.

Rita, played by a sultry Laura Elene Haring, is in search of her identity after a failed attempt on her life leaves her head emptier than a cookie jar at fat camp.

Finding refuge in a supposedly abandoned Hollywood bungalow, Laura runs

into Betty Elms — delightfully cheery and disillusioned Naomi Watts — who also happens to be an aspiring actress.

The girls embark on a whirlwind journey for Laura’s identity, triggered by her remembrance of a “Diane Selwyn.”

Then, the movie makes a jump into a completely different story involving the exact same characters.

Rita becomes Camilla Rhodes, an actress forced on a project by a Mafia syndicate in Hollywood; Betty becomes Diane, Camilla’s scorned lover.

It gets confusing.

Most of the confusion stems from the fact that “Mulholland Drive” was scheduled to be a television series. The movie attempts to summarize what was an entire season’s worth of plot lines

in just two hours. This understandably leaves a lot of loose ends. Stories are begun but never finished, simply because Lynch did not have enough time.

Each episode within the film is masterfully crafted with Lynch’s trademark emphasis on the bizarre.

Individually, the scenes share a loosely held common theme, which adds to the overall feel of despair and sin. Just do not expect the action to flow smoothly.

Lynch leaves plenty of hidden clues for more cunning viewers to piece together. But for those of us without a doctorate in David Lynchology, “Mulholland Drive” serves as a refreshing glimpse at the underbelly of the Beverly Hills lifestyle.

K-Pax is food for thought

■MOVIE: Film lets viewers decide the spaced out truth

BY KIMBERLY PIERCEALL
The Daily Titan Staff Writer

Add Kevin Spacey to the cast, and “Dude Where’s My Car” could’ve been Oscar worthy – ok maybe Blockbuster award worthy. Point being, Spacey’s mere presence heightens the credibility and charm of almost any film – including K-Pax.

The set-up is typical: Alien named Prot (Spacey) lands on Earth and starts telling people he is an alien, thus prompting them to send him to a mental institution – a swanky Manhattan mental institution, no less. Instead of writing the guy off as simply kooky, Dr. Mark Powell (Jeff Bridges) is intrigued and ignores his family’s advice and obsessively tries to find out whether this patient is a real alien.

In the meantime, a goofy cast of fellow mental patients surrounds Prot: the obsessive compulsive, the germ-phobe and the stuck-in-the-past. All are zany and all are infatuated with Prot’s K-Paxian stories.

It then makes perfect sense that the doctor’s brother-in-law happens to be an astronomer, so he and his astronomical physics cronies can check Prot’s stories for factual error.

And as in most, “is he or isn’t he real” movie plots, the scientists are shocked when Prot draws a more detailed map of his solar system than expected.

The screenwriter should have taken note of the movie’s tag line and changed his view of the world – the world of film scripts.

Good thing Kevin Spacey appeared from a beam of light.

The actor can do no wrong. Lines that would normally sound

contrived and cheesy come out sounding pretty funny, like when Prot reassures his doctor, “Don’t worry, I’m not going to leap out of your chest.”

His subtle gestures (slight grin and unwavering voice) balanced with his over-the-top antics (gnawing on a banana with the peel still attached) made him human and alien at the same time, a fitting portrayal of mysterious Prot.

But Spacey wasn’t the only lead.

Light played a major role in every scene. Since Prot travels by light rays, the cinematographers had a field day accenting each scene with a colorful ray. Kudos to the unrecognized cinematographers whose names should be listed above Jeff Bridges on the poster.

The same goes for the music. The instrumental lulls you along with Spacey’s voice.

Unless you’re John Williams, famed composer of almost every high profile movie (Star Wars, Titanic, Saving Private Ryan), name recognition isn’t attached to most composers. Edward Shearmur, composer of such noteworthy films as Cruel Intentions and Miss Congeniality, found a real winner in creating the simple galaxy tunes for K-Pax.

But, do the right actor, the perfect look, and interesting music translate into an overall good movie?

K-Pax emerges as many separate parts with an appeal resembling a “Choose Your Own Adventure” book.

You can choose to take K-Pax as it is, a typical movie with some style – or look deeper, much deeper, to understand who Prot might be.

Either way, choose to change the way you look at the movie by focusing on Kevin Spacey. Alien or not, his acting is not of this world, and it shows.

Jet Li offers more of the same

BY PATRICK VUONG
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Despite having made American films for almost four years, Jet Li has yet to come up with a single high-quality box office hit.

Sure “Lethal Weapon 4” was a huge success, but his first Hollywood appearance wasn’t much considering he spoke no English lines and appeared in only a portion of the film.

Then came “Romeo Must Die,” a predictable, barely entertaining urban action movie that garnered just \$55

million in box office sales.

Next Li played a framed cop in “Kiss of the Dragon,” which grossed only \$36 million despite being a somewhat better film.

Li’s newest release, “The One,” probably won’t deviate too much from this pattern, though it is a slight improvement from his previous works.

One of the reasons why “The One” is more enjoyable than his past two starring vehicles is the intriguing premise of which it is based on: reality

is not made up of just one universe, but rather many parallel universes that exist simultaneously but separately from our own.

The Multiverse Bureau of Investigation polices these alternative universes but when one of their agents, Yulaw (Li), goes rogue, the energy balance is lost.

The agent learns that by killing his alternate versions the remaining energy is divided among the remaining Yulaws, giving them superhuman abilities. After killing 123 alternates of himself, Yulaw sets his mark on Gabe, the version of our reality.

If this story sounds a bit too much like an episode of some science-fiction series, there’s good reason for that — scribes Glen Morgan and James Wong have written for “The X-Files,” “Millennium” and “The Others.” Though their script is far from perfect, the writing duo interjects enough action, emotion and intelligence to make the film work.

With Morgan serving as producer and Wong as director, “The One” turns out as an amusing action film, though the potential is there for it to be even more than what it is.

For example, working with Li, it’s apparent that Wong does not have much experience dealing with martial arts scenes, as he tends to use close-up shots with quick-cut edits.



COURTESY OF REVOLUTION STUDIOS
Jet Li’s martial arts action is just as solid as in his past films.

Filipino film makes solid ‘debut’

CSULB grad helps pen cultural film breakthrough

■**FILM:** Writer takes on the daunting task of exposing struggles Filipino—American children deal with

By ABIGAIL C. SIENA
Daily Titan Staff Writer

There are two types of people in today's society. The first type are those who complain and criticize.

The other type consists of those who observe and try to make a difference.

John Manal Castro fits into the latter category.

Unlike most people whose dream is to become doctors, lawyers and first-class athletes, Castro had something else in mind.

Castro is a co-writer of the independent film, "The Debut."

"Growing up, I never saw any Filipinos in movies or on TV and if there were Filipinos on movies and TV, they weren't playing Filipinos," Castro said during a screening at the Edwards Theatre at the Long Beach Towne Center.

Castro mentioned that Filipino actors and actresses are left to portray the roles of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and the stereotypical housemaids, exotic dancers or prostitutes.

This prompted him to pursue a career in the film industry.

Castro attended Cal State Long Beach and graduated in 1994.

While at CSULB, Castro wrote and directed an acclaimed mock documentary called "Diary of a Gangsta Sucka."

The film was a satire on the Filipino gangster phenomenon in Los Angeles.

"I wanted to put Filipinos on the big screen...the American big screen," Castro said.

Castro met 'Debut' director and co-

writer Gene Cajayon during a Filipino-American Film Festival at UCLA and the rest as they say, is history.

The concept and script were completed in two years while the film took almost ten years to complete, due to lack of monetary funds.

Unlike most independent films, The Debut did not receive any support from major Hollywood studios.

The film is the first major motion picture depicting life as a Filipino-American in modern society.

The producers of The Debut marketed the film at their own expense. The film's trailers appeared on MTV, BET and the Cartoon Network as well as international cable channels. Print ads appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

"If we had a lot of money, we would want to mass market this to everybody, whether you're Filipino or not," Castro said. "Since we had a small budget, we had to cater to our core audience which is the Filipino Community."

The movie was filmed in Montebello, CA, and received positive responses from residents of that community.

Local residents provided in-kind support and were cast as extras in the film.

Castro mentioned that finding actors to portray the parents in the film was a difficult task.

"The parents, grandparents and the older generation [that] immigrated here, their initial goal was not to become an actor or actress. They came here to raise a family, survive and live the American dream," Castro said.

With that in mind, the writers and producers set their sights on the Philippines and their seasoned actors.

A flock of hopefuls auditioned and in the end, they found their talents.

One of the actors named Eddie Garcia, was a five-time Filipino Association of Movie Arts and Sciences award winner for best director. FAMAS is the Philippines' equivalent to the American Oscars.



COURTESY OF 5 CARD PRODUCTIONS

Joy Bisco (left) and Dante Basco (right) share an intimate moment in the Filipino-American drama, "The Debut."

lent to the American Oscars.

"We didn't have to audition Eddie though," Castro said. "We still had to audition for the parents 'cause a lot of people could have played that role. But I think only one person could have played Eddie's character," he said with a smile.

Casting the rest of the characters was not as difficult. Basco brothers Dante, Darion, Derek and Dino were the only Filipino-American actors in their age bracket who were active in Hollywood.

Dante Basco, the leading man of the film is best known for his role as Rufio in the motion picture "Hook" with Robin Williams.

Actress Joy Bisco who portrays Basco's love interest in the film, was spotted in front of a night club handing out fliers.

"We were so desperate to find the person [to play the part] that we actually went to clubs that were predominantly Filipino [patrons were Filipino or Filipino-American]," Castro said. "She just happened to be there and she saw our flier and said 'Oh, wow! I'm an actress.' We auditioned her and she got the role."

The film has since enjoyed success in its Los Angeles tour.

"There's still a lot of convincing to be done," Castro said about gaining more movie patrons for the film. "You got to really hold their hands and guide them into the movie theater," Castro said.

The same movie companies that refused to support "Debut" are now battling for the rights to release the film on video.

The film's opener according to Castro "was the

second highest grossing movie per screen in the nation." Thus beating Serendipity and Training Day. "Hopefully, we get some bigger distribution by the end of this tour," Castro said.

When asked about his parents' reaction towards the film, Castro responded "My parents have been supportive from the beginning...now that it's out, they're really proud of it."

The Filipino community now has a movie to call their own.

"Maybe their [Castro's parents] friends' kids are doctors and lawyers, but they can say 'Hey, my son made 'The Debut,' which is a nice thing to say," Castro said.

Movie taps into stereotypes of filipino families

■**REVIEW:** With a basic story line and a common theme, this drama attempts to blend its culture

By ABIGAIL C. SIENA
Daily Titan Staff Writer

The movie "The Debut" gives us a glimpse of what life is like as a Filipino-American dealing with the conflicts of modern society and family values and traditions.

The film takes us into the life of the Mercado family as seen by Ruben, the youngest member and the lead character of the film.

Ruben, portrayed by Dante Basco, is a gifted artist caught in a conflict between his father's dream of having a doctor in the family and his dream of becoming a famous animator.

This conflict builds when his mailman father Roland (portrayed by Filipino actor Tirso Cruz III) confronts his son by saying that a 'cartoon degree' will lead to nowhere.

Ruben is seen as a teenager in search

of his own identity and in denial of his heritage as a Filipino-American.

The movie also introduces the audience to a very important milestone in a Filipino woman's life...the debutant ball.

This tradition is celebrated by marking a Filipina's maturity into adulthood.

The event is compared to a giant block party, but with relatives arriving from distant places to mark the occasion.

As the family continues the preparations for Rose's (Ruben's older sister played by actress Bernadette Balagtas) 18th birthday party, Ruben battles with the issues of attending this Filipino family tradition or conceding to another invitation by his crush and classmate, a blonde caucasian girl, to a keg party.

Fast forward to the night of the party where Ruben encounters Rose's friend Annabelle (played by newcomer Joy Bisco), a damsel in distress hounded by ex-boyfriend and Ruben's former childhood friend, toughie Augusto (Darion Basco) who would do anything to claim his ex-girlfriend as his trophy.

Romance finds its way as Ruben and Annabelle's chance meeting brings them closer during the night. This cre-



COURTESY OF 5 CARDS PRODUCTIONS

Dante Basco (left) and Bernadette Balagtas pay respect to their grandfather Eddie Garcia (right).

ates a bitter dispute between Ruben and Augusto.

The movie also showcases the efforts that some Filipino parents go through to give their child the perfect debut.

The tireless food and décor preparations and dance practices (events vary

from family to family). It also introduces the family's patriarch Lolo Carlos (Lolo is Filipino for grandfather.)

Portrayed by Filipino screen legend Eddie Garcia, the long absent grandfather arrives from the Philippines to celebrate his granddaughter's journey

into adulthood.

The grandfather's seemingly kind-hearted nature dramatically changes as he encounters his son Roland after many years of separation. Roland's wife Gina (Filipino actress Gina Alajar) prevents Roland from losing his temper during

his conflict with Ruben in the film.

The director and screenwriters went to great lengths in developing the film's plot as the storyline moved from one character's view to another.

The film does not have any severely complicated twists and turns that most audiences expect from an independent or mainstream film. The end of the movie leaves you clamoring for more.

This film concludes its Los Angeles tour tonight.

It was not rated and was released without the support of any major Hollywood movie studios.

The movie has received an award for best feature film in the San Diego Asian Film Festival.

It also won the Audience award for best feature film at the Hawaii International Film Festival and a "Thumbs Up" rating from movie critic Roger Ebert.

Despite placing ads in the Los Angeles Times and running movie trailers on local television stations, the film's success has relied heavily on word of mouth.

The chemistry between Filipino actors and their Filipino-American counterparts shows the diversity of tal-

Superman feels rather small in newest WB television series

■**TELEVISION:** WB TV takes a new look at an old comic book favorite in its latest teen-oriented series

By PATRICK VUONG
Daily Titan Staff Writer

It's a bird, it's a plane, it ain't Superman — that's for sure.

In WB's latest drama "Smallville," Superman doesn't exist. Only Clark Kent does.

This highly inventive show has the future Man of Steel as a high school freshman that wants nothing more

than to fit in and win over his childhood crush, Lana Lang.

But because of his pussycat personality and gawky appearance, the cool kids — including Lana, label Clark a geek.

If unrequited love and being unpopular were not enough, the student reporter starts to fear what puberty has done to him.

While most kids his age worry about rampant body odor and hair growth, Clark is frightened by his ability to survive a car crash and travel faster than any man or machine on Earth.

At first glance, "Smallville" seems like nothing more than a cash cow — a way for WB to mine for more gold by transplanting the Superman

mythos into "Dawson's Creek" or "Roswell."

Fortunately, this new show far exceeds such expectations.

"Smallville" features a bright cast of fresh faces, including Tom Welling, who, despite being a good-looking actor in his 20s, convincingly plays Clark as an awkward teen-ager. Not bad for a guy whose recent acting gig was as Tom the Frat Guy in Fox's "Undeclared."

Like Welling, Michael Rosenbaum's performance as Lex Luthor is full of nuances. The evil corporate genius has always been a fun character, but he's even more interesting in "Smallville" because he's not a clear-cut villain.

In fact, after Clark saves his life, Lex actually sets out to befriend him.

Rosenbaum especially shines when Lex's good-natured deeds for Clark subtly reveal his potential for wickedness.

With a soon-to-be-arch villain in place, producers merely had to look at the source material to find a love interest for Clark in Lana, played by gorgeous newcomer Kristin Kreuk, who dates a football captain in the first three episodes.

The pilot episode is probably one of the best-written comic adaptations for TV ever.

It starts off with a meteor shower that tears up Smallville, kills Lana's parents and leaves Lex balder than a baseball bat.

The best part about the writing is guessing when and how Clark's

powers will be revealed. In the first episode, he finds it unsettling that he's invulnerable. In the second show, Clark briefly discovers that he can float.

Unfortunately, even this excellent Superman show suffers a little from its own kryptonite.

To give Clark meaningful challenges the villains must be enhanced as well, but Smallville isn't exactly a haven for super-powered rogues, making it difficult to come up with logical explanations for their powers.

Borrowing liberally from Spider-Man, the second episode's villain is a student who gets super bug abilities after being bitten by insects.

This is not the most imaginative plot device, and even worse are the

special effects used for his powers.

Some of the computer-generated shots look so shoddy it's as if they're using the techniques done almost ten years ago in the previous Superman series, "Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman."

Despite these few minor flaws, "Smallville" is one of the best new one-hour shows to premiere this season.

Created by Jerry Siegel and Canadian-born artist Joe Shuster, Superman has entertained millions for almost 70 years.

Extrapolating on the pair's creation, the "Smallville" producers will no doubt do the same for at least a few more years to come.

MARS SAYS...

By DANNY SERPA
Daily Titan Staff Writer

It's funny how some planets just fall right into place and others just float off into space.

They're some nice match-ups this week in a league that's beginning to define the more dominant teams.

If the Bears beat Green Bay this week, I will consider them a legitimate Super Bowl contender along with the Raiders and Rams. All three teams post a 6-1 record coming into this week's games.

I thought I saw the Raiders' success come to a halt on Monday night when Rich Gannon was hit HARD while trying to race into the end zone. All I saw was grass chunks sticking out from his helmet that was barely attached to his body. But the trooper he is, Gannon came right back a few plays later, throwing 3 touchdowns for 242 yards and a Raider victory.

"How bout' them Redskins!"

Huh?
Actually, the team has won three games in a row and their offensive has looked quite impressive lately. Stephen Davis has moved into the league's top five in rushing yards. For the last three weeks, he has rushed for over three hundred yards. They're starting to gain confidence as they go into their bye week. I'll keep my eye on them when they play Denver in week 10.

I'll also keep a close eye on Venus, so hopefully she won't catch me.

LAST WEEK: 12-2
YEAR TO DATE: 74-39

PICKS FROM MARS

1. Patriots
2. Rams
3. Jaguars
4. Cowboys
5. Packers
6. Jets
7. Colts
8. Steelers
9. Buccaneers
10. Broncos
11. Vikings
12. 49ers
13. Giants
14. Raiders
15. Ravens

NFL
Week 9

Buffalo at New England

Carolina at St. Louis

Cincinnati at Jacksonville

Dallas at Atlanta

Green Bay at Chicago

Kansas City at NY Jets

Miami at Indianapolis

Pittsburgh at Cleveland

Tampa Bay at Detroit

San Diego at Denver

Minnesota at Philadelphia

New Orleans at San Francisco

NY Giants at Arizona

Oakland at Seattle

MONDAY NITE FOOTBALL

Baltimore at Tennessee

Venus says...

By MELANIE BYSOUTH
Daily Titan Sports Editor

If the rule of three applies to the NFL this Sunday, the Packers could be in a lot of trouble. Incredibly, there have only been 13 games in the history of the NFL that have been decided by an interception in overtime. Amazingly, two of those have come in the last two weeks. Remarkably, they have been by the same team. Miraculously, they have been by the same player.

After shocking the 49ers with the fastest overtime interception in NFL history, the Chicago Bears repeated the impossible with the Browns, after two touchdowns in two minutes led them into overtime and another overtime interception catch by safety Mike Brown.

We may be in for another adventure this weekend.

Offering some afternoon entertainment, Crazy Turley and the Saints will be taking on the 49ers. Though the Niners have claimed victory in 70 percent of their meetings, New Orleans have won the last three, but its not likely that they will improve that record to four. Evenly matched on defense, it will all come down to offense where Frisco is clearly the leader. The 49ers are third in the league in offense, second in rushing and fifth in scoring. And even with a weak offensive line, the Niners have allowed only 11 sacks compared to the Saints' 24.

If Garcia, rated 4th in the league, gets the time he needs to pass the ball, the crowd at 3COM should have plenty to

LAST WEEK: 10-4
YEAR TO DATE: 71-42

PICKS FROM VENUS

1. Patriots
2. Rams
3. Bengals
4. Falcons
5. Bears
6. Jets
7. Colts
8. Browns
9. Buccaneers
10. Chargers
11. Eagles
12. 49ers
13. Giants
14. Raiders
15. Titans

COMMENTARY
Contraction might
be targeting wrong

By BRIAN THATCHER
Special to the Titan

A franchise that sells off all of their players in a purge of salaries deserves to get contracted from a pro-sports league.

A team that year in and year out finishes at the bottom of their division with no signs of improvement deserves to be contracted.

A team that can boast no Hall of Fame players or World Championships in their history deserves to be contracted.

None of these characteristics fit the Minnesota Twins but, along with the Montreal Expos, they are rumored to be one of two teams being contracted by Major League Baseball.

Commissioner Bud Selig, however, did not make public which specific teams were to be contracted as a result of a vote the owners had at a meeting on Tuesday.

The Expos are an obvious choice. They have averaged just 7,648 fans per game at Olympic Stadium this year and have locally generated revenue of about \$16 million — 8 percent of the Yankees' total of nearly \$200 million. No progress has been made towards the building of a new stadium to replace the antiquated Olympic Stadium. They have little history, with no World Series' championships to their credit.

But the Twins are a franchise with a legacy.

They have two world championships, both of which coming in the last 15 years. They have hall of fame players like Kirby Puckett and Harmon Killebrew and Rod Carew.

They finished with a record of 85-77, the fifth best record in the American League and good enough for second place in the Central Division. When they were in the middle of a pennant race this past year, they improved their roster for the stretch run by adding highly coveted pitcher Rick Reed to

boost their pitching staff.

They had two Gold Glove award winners this year in Doug Mientkiewicz and Torii Hunter, and they did this all with the lowest payroll in baseball, 22.4 million. They've been running at a modest profit in recent years, were in first place most of the past season and their attendance soared this year.

The Twins owner, Carl Pohlad, has made threats over the last few years that he would sell the team if the voters did not approve a new stadium. But the voters called his bluff and the Twins stayed where they are, which is in a rent-free stadium, the Metrodome, built for them by the taxpayers.

If the current plans for contraction go through, more than these two teams will be affected.

The changes would call for Major League Baseball to pay the Twins and Expos \$250 million a piece to buyout the franchises. The Expos owner, Jeffrey Loria, a New York art dealer with few ties to Quebec, would then be allowed to buy the Florida Marlins.

The Marlins' owner, John Henry, whose ownership team was originally based out of Newport Beach, could buy out Disney and take over management of the Anaheim Angels.

Both the Expos and Marlins would then take three major league players and five minor league players with them to their new cities. The remaining players on the rosters would enter a dispersal draft with all the other major league teams taking part. Each team's roster would expand from 25 to 27 players to help counteract the loss of the jobs from the contraction.

If contraction were to happen, it would be a sad day for all sports lovers. And if the Twins were one of the teams that were eliminated, being that they are such a productive team, it would be yet another example of how greed has corrupted "America's pastime" into nothing more than a money hungry machine.

T i R
3x3.5

Family Dental
Center
3x10.5

Bren School
“Can you
manage”
3x7

Who’s going to the playoffs this year?

■COMMENTARY: With the season underway, while some NBA teams are off to a good start, many are already struggling but to make it to the finals its going to take practice, determination and a little luck

By MARK VILLARROEL
Daily Titan Staff Writer

As the 2001-2002 season begins, fans and players alike can’t wait to see how the story will unfold into the play-offs. Yes, the West is tough and competitive with the Kings and Mavericks improving with every stroke. Toronto and Milwaukee will make it interesting for Philly in the East, but if Kobe and Shaq manage to play together and stay healthy, there shouldn’t be much drama in the future.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Los Angeles Lakers

These guys are talking Dynasty, but unlike the TV series, the drama won’t get in the way of anything. If Kobe and Shaq won a pair of championships without being on the same page, imagine what can happen if they decide to write a book or even a chapter together. Other teams will try to surpass them for years to come. With the addition of sharp shooters Richmond and Hunter, there seems to be no reason why the purple and gold won’t be holding the gold at the end of the playoffs.

Sacramento Kings

Was it the \$123 million or the fact that this is one exciting team to play for? Whatever the case, Chris Webber has made the right decision. With Mike Bibby pushing the ball on breaks and Jason Williams leaving and heaving 3’s in Memphis, this team seems to have what it takes to get far in the playoffs.

San Antonio Spurs

There is one big question for this team, who’s going to handle the rock? With Terry Porter at 38, and Tony Parker at half that, there might trouble in the backcourt come playoff time. Tim Duncan and David Robinson stay together, thanks to the Admiral’s new contract, and the addition of Steve Smith may help considerably, but is it enough?

Dallas Mavericks

There is an emerging duo in happy nappy Steve Nash and Dirk Nowitzki. If these guys keep it up, there’s no telling where they can end up. Along with Michael Finley’s 7-year contract renewal and Juwan Howard’s solid inside play on the block, they are going to be a tough opponent to take out in the first round.

Minnesota Timberwolves

These guys are off to a great start, but how long will the pack last? There is just not enough talent around Kevin Garnett to make a serious push for a ring. With Terrell Brandon’s amazing shooting display in the playoffs last year, I have a feeling they’re going to be counting on him to produce as he did.

Phoenix Suns

This might be the perfect match for one of the league’s most dynamic players. With Stephon Marbury’s lights-out shooting in Jersey, the Wild-Wild West is a place where he and his game can thrive. With Penny Hardaway healthy and Shawn

“the Matrix” Marion flying through the air, I wouldn’t want to miss this high-flying act in the regular and postseason.

Utah Jazz

With the pick n’ roll worked to perfection time and time again, the only factor that might inhibit this legendary duo is time itself. Stockton and Malone are nearing the end of their ride, but unfortunately a ring is out of the question.

Portland Trailblazers

All that talent, all that trouble. With jaw dropping talent bottled in a can of rage, Rasheed Wallace has to stop crying before his team can get anywhere. With stars falling off the bench due to lack of room, new Coach Maurice Cheeks will have his hands full, maybe too full.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Philadelphia 76ers

These guys will do anything to get a ring on their finger, even Allen Iverson tried to be a rapper. With Aaron McKie shooting the ball with a trigger, and Coach Larry Brown thinking bigger, will the Sixers beat the Lakers in the championship or will they just linger?

Milwaukee Bucks

This cast almost three-pointed their way into the finals last season. With Ray Allen and Glen “Big Dog” Robinson leading the scoring barrage, and Sam Cassel running the show, this team is as talented as they are exciting to watch. The only

thing lacking is a quality big man in the middle, but that did not stop them from getting to the Eastern Conference final last year.

Toronto Raptors

With most of last season’s roster returning this season, Vince Carter ties his jumping boots just a bit tighter. By picking up Hakeem “Once upon a Dream” Olajuwon, and resigning Antonio Davis for seven more years, there is definite front security for this team. The only thing this team has to do is contribute when it counts and “Air Canada” should take them to the promise land.

Orlando Magic

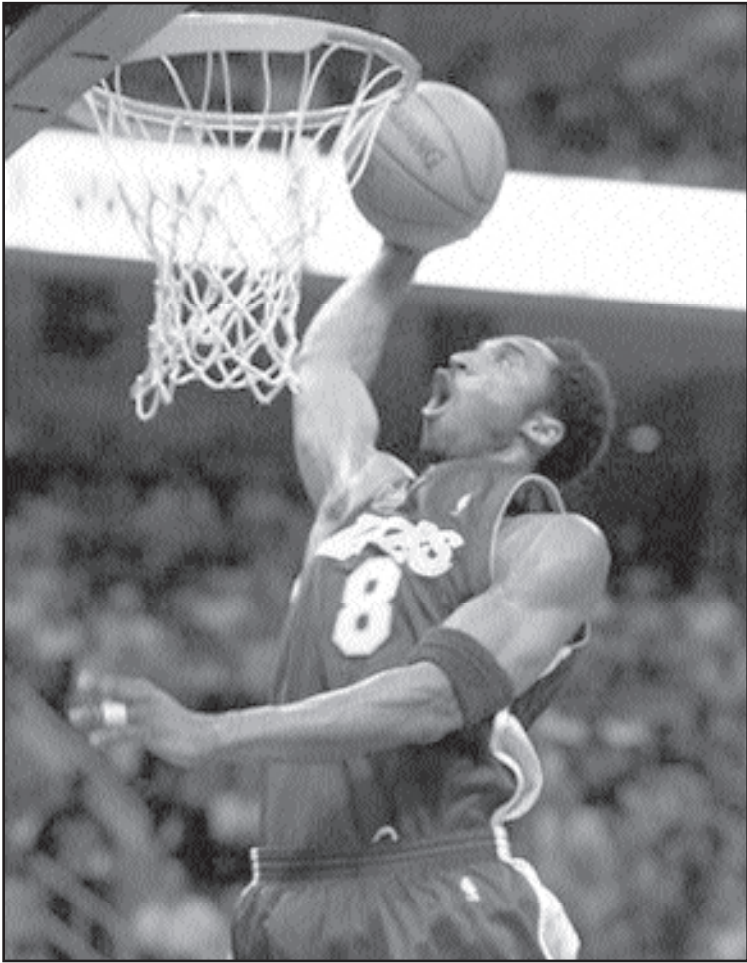
Now that Grant Hill and Tracy McGrady are reunited after a year of waiting and healing, their Rookie of the Year Mike Miller is sidelined with a foot ailment. Injuries killed this team last year, so health is a must. So are patience and time.

Washington Wizards

Jordan’s extended career plan is this, make the playoffs this year and take the championship in the next. That’s just too bad this is not the 98’ Bulls. With a budding and talented supporting cast that is still growing and maturing, these youngsters may not be able to give his “Aimess” his ninth ring.

Miami Heat

The flame is burning out for this team. With Tim Hardaway jumping ship towards the West and Pat Riley coming to the end of his coaching career, it is up to Eddie Jones and Alonzo Mourning to play at an all-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kobe Bryant and the Lakers are ready to go for a three-peat.

star level to keep this team competing in the post season.

times play well, but that seems to be the problem.

New York Knick

Now that Allan Houston has 100 million reasons to smile, hopefully he can now become a true star. Latrell Sprewell has to play as consistent as ever since he and Allan are the two only offensive threats on the team. Marcus Camby can at

Indiana Pacers

Reggie Miller can’t stay around any longer and Jalen Rose needs to take the throne and become a star. Jermaine O’ Neal is an emerging all-star but the Pacers don’t have enough to be more than a part-time postseason participant.

Classifieds
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